SEP 2 0 1999 984

MAGIC
P. O. Box 5894
Stanford, CA 94309
(650) 323-7333
m@ecomagic.org

September 17, 1999

CalFed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth Street, Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

To whom it may concern:

We write to comment on the draft EIR/EIS for the CalFed Bay-Delta Progrm, State Clearinghouse #96032083.

As full-time volunteers for an ecological research and teaching organization, we have devoted thousands of hours to a variety of water management, land stewardship, and urban forestry programs. We write to suggest that urban forestry is a valuable tool for, and in turn is dependent on, improving water and habitat quality. We ask that it be included in the Cal-Fed planning process.

Tree planting and stewardship of habitat in both urban areas and urban-rural interfaces can:

- improve ground water infilttration
- increase the filtration of pollutants from runoff
- reduce flood risk
- reduce summer stream temperatures

An example of integrating water management and urban forestry is the construction on Stanford University lands of small ponding basins designed to recreate once-common vernal pool habitat. The pools have eliminated flooding from a major campus road; allowed for runoff to be filtered and percolate into the soil rather than be dumped directly into the Bay; and provided welcoming habitat for native trees and understorey species (planted by community volunteers), wildlife, and people. A multi-million dollar sewer addition was obviated by constructing the pools.

As we discovered in researching an article for the newsletter of California ReLeaf (a state network of urban forestry groups), public works engineers, biologists, city arborists, flood control boards, and other thoughtful people throughout California are recognizing the links between intelligent water management and stewarding trees in the urban environment. We encourage you to broaden the Cal-Fed discourse in the same spirit.

Thank you for your attention and your work on this challenging issue.

Sincerely,

Joan Schwan

Joan Schwan

cc: Andrea Tuttle, CDF